California’s Capistrano Unified School District Strengthens Partnership with Discovery Education to Launch New Professional Development Initiative Supporting STEM Education

New Collaboration Supports District’s Effort to Reimagine Teaching and Learning

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO–Capistrano Unified School District (CUSD) announced today an expansion of its partnership with Discovery Education, the leading provider of digital content and professional development for K-12 classrooms. In this new phase of collaboration, Discovery Education will support CUSD’s efforts to develop District educators’ capacity to build and sustain a culture of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education in their school system through the implementation of a multi-year STEM professional development initiative in 11 District elementary schools.

The strengthening of CUSD’s partnership with Discovery Education also supports the District’s CapoForward initiative. A reimagining of the educational programs in selected CUSD schools, CapoForward is transforming instruction by introducing a variety of innovative new teaching strategies into the learning environment. CapoForward also bolsters the District’s mission to prepare students to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world and CUSD’s goal of maintaining its position among the state’s top-performing school districts.

Since 2014, K-5 classrooms across CUSD have used Discovery Education Streaming Plus, a comprehensive digital service that supplements instruction across all curricular areas, to create engaging and dynamic learning environments. Now, educators in the 11 elementary schools included in this initiative will participate in a professional capacity building model that develops and nurtures teachers and administrators as they create a culture of STEM within their school system. Through a shared leadership model, robust professional development, ongoing coaching, and administrative leadership support, educators participating in this initiative will develop a transdisciplinary curriculum preparing students for success beyond the classroom that can be scaled districtwide.

“We want every child engaged in meaningful, challenging, and innovative educational experiences that prepare them for greater opportunities and success, in their future education and after graduation,” said
Martha McNicholas, President of the Board of Trustees. “Discovery Education has been a great partner and we are thrilled to expand our relationship, and support our teachers as we focus on a cross-disciplinary approach to STEM education.”

The Discovery Education Community will continue supporting CUSD educators as they transform students’ learning experiences with digital media. A global community of education professionals, the Discovery Education Community connects members across school systems and around the world through social media, virtual conferences, and in-person events, fostering valuable networking, idea sharing and inspiration.

“We are excited to support the Capistrano Unified School District in their quest to reinvent instruction and build STEM-focused teaching experiences that truly engage students in learning,” said Dana Dodge, Education Partnerships Manager at Discovery Education. “Discovery Education looks forward to partnering with Superintendent Vital and her talented team of administrators and teachers on this new endeavor.”

###